

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/22/86

Mr. KENT C. COOPER, Assistant Staff Director for Disclosure, FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION (FEC), Washington, D.C. (WDC), telephone (202) 376-3140, was interviewed at his place of employment. COOPER was advised that the interviewing agent was interested in identifying and reviewing any documents filed with FEC by the National Endowment for the Preservation of Liberty (NEPL), or a lobbying group known as "Sentinel". COOPER was also advised that any political action committees or lobbying groups registered with FEC that are associated with CARL R. CHANNELL were also of interest to the interviewing agent. ① 023
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COOPER was familiar with the nature of this inquiry as several representatives of the press have been making similar inquiries over the past few days. COOPER advised that neither NEPL or Sentinel are registered lobbyists with FEC. From information brought to his attention through the recent press inquiries, COOPER has become aware of two organizations which are registered with FEC that CHANNELL is associated with. COOPER identified the first organization as the American Conservative Trust, which has been registered with FEC since approximately October, 1983. COOPER provided copies of all documents filed with FEC by American Conservative Trust and it was noted that a current address is listed as 305 4th Street, N.E., WDC. The filing official for American Conservative Trust is listed as ALBERT PERRI, JR., who is the treasurer. COOPER also pointed to references within the disclosure documents where CHANNELL is listed as being on the payroll. CHANNELL's position with American Conservative Trust was not listed on any of the FEC records.

The second organization was listed as Anti-Terrorism American Committee which, according to COOPER, has been

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registered with FEC since approximately April, 1986. Records filed with FEC listed an address as of August 29, 1986, as Star Route 2, Prince Frederick, Maryland. The filing official was listed as EDWARD DEAN MILES, Treasurer. As with the first organization, a reference was located in the FEC documents for a payroll expenditure for CHANNELL, but CHANNELL's position or association with this organization was not listed.

In reviewing the FEC documents filed by each of these organizations, it was noted that each has made contributions to the other, and there were also itemized receipts showing contributions to each organization made by CHANNELL. According to COOPER, such contributions are within FEC guidelines and regulations.

COOPER was also able to locate a document which listed CHANNELL as a contributor on at least one occasion to the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and it was pointed out that this reference listed CHANNELL as director of finance for N.C. PAC, Arlington, Virginia. COOPER further identified this organization as the National Conservation Political Action Committee.

As previously mentioned, numerous press inquiries have been made at FEC with regard to the above organizations but, to the best of his knowledge, COOPER was unaware of any official inquiries that have been made by the Lowell, Massachusetts Sun newspaper. COOPER was familiar with a Sun article appearing in the December 14, 1986 edition which alleged that certain campaign contributions made by CHANNELL's organizations were funded through profits made through sales of arms to Iran. COOPER found this article surprising as there is nothing that he is aware of in FEC documents to support these allegations, and he was also unaware of any information supporting the allegations that has been developed by any of the newspaper reporters who have been combing over the FEC documents. All of the information concerning the two above listed organizations that was provided to the interviewing agent was provided to representatives of The Washington Post newspaper, New York Times newspaper, and Wall Street Journal newspaper as early as the previous Thursday, December 11, 1986, and COOPER was of the opinion that if any of these individuals had developed information supporting the allegations, they would have printed it. COOPER knew nothing

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about the Lowell Sun article other than what he read, and he felt reasonably sure that if a representative of that newspaper has reviewed FEC files, they have not developed anything additional to that developed by other newspaper representatives.

According to various newspaper representatives, CHANNELL has also been linked to an organization known as "Western Goals Foundation", and press inquiries have been made with regard to this organization as well. COOPER advised that Western Goals Foundation is not a registered lobbyist with FEC.

In addition to the above information, COOPER volunteered that several members of the press who have been reviewing FEC records for American Conservative Trust and the Anti-Terrorism American Committee have initiated contacts with some of the individuals who are listed as contributors to each of these groups on the itemized receipt forms (Schedule A). COOPER could not specifically identify any of the individuals who have been contacted by reporters, but he recalled that one reporter from a Texas newspaper had contacted some of the contributors who were listed as having Texas addresses. COOPER could not recall the identity of the reporter, and he did not know how many contributors this reporter contacted, but it was COOPER's recollection that all of the people contacted were legitimate and did make the contributions listed on the FEC documents.

COOPER advised that he was unaware of any additional groups or committees that were associated with either CHANNELL or any of the above listed committees. It is not unusual for organizations to have several different committees for the purpose of making campaign contributions, and COOPER agreed to contact the interviewing agent in the event that additional groups or committees come to his attention.